

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 08451 301119 Z

42

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3588

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

COMUSMACTHAI

13 AF

USARSUPTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8451

E. O. 11652: GDS-1979

TAGS: MARR TH

SUBJECT: CONSOLIDATION OF PROPERTY DISPOSAL UNDER DSA

1. DEFENSE PLANS CONSOLIDATION OF SERVICE- RUN EXCESS PROPERTY DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES INTO JOINT SERVICE ACTIVITY UNDER DEFENSE SUPPLY AGENCY. THIS IS AREA OF GREAT POLITICAL SENSITIVITY WITH THAI GOVERNMENT. MANNER IN WHICH PROPERTY DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES ARE CONDUCTED AFFECTS OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP WITH THAI GOVERNMENT. AS WE APPROACH PERIOD OF PHASE- DOWN OF FOUR FORCES, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THESE ACTIVITIES REMAIN WELL- ORCHESTRATED WITH OTHER US MISSION ACTIONS AND POLICIES. WHILE WE APPLAUD TREND TOWARD CONSOLIDATION OF SERVICE PROPERTY DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES IMPLICIT IN NEW JOINT ORGANIZATION, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT AN AGENCY RESPONSIBLE DIRECTLY TO A CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS IN THE US MIGHT START TO OPERATE SOMEWHAT OUT- OF- PHASE WITH THE REST OF THE MISSION. POSSIBLE RTG UNHAPPINESS IN THIS AREA COULD WASH OVER INTO OTHER AREAS.

2. FOR EXAMPLE, THE AIR FORCE HAS DECIDED ESSENTIALLY THAT WHEN USAF CLOSES OUT OF THAI BASES IT WILL BE UNECONOMIC TO SELL LOCALLY THE EXCESSES RESULTING FROM ORDINARY DISPOSAL PROCEDURES. INSTEAD, EXCESSES WILL BE DONATED TO RTG. RTG HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THIS BASE CLOSURE PROCEDURE. THE MISSION WOULD LIKE TO BE ASSURED THAT

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 08451 301119 Z

NEW DSA ORGANIZATION OPERATES WITHIN THIS PARAMETER.

3. WITH LARGE NUMBER OF US MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS IN THAILAND TO KEEP COORDINATED WITH MISSION POLICY, AMBASSADOR MUST LOOK TO ONE POINT IN MILITARY STRUCTURE FOR THIS COORDINATION. THIS POINT IS CINCPAC' S SENIOR MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE IN THAILAND- COMUSMACHTAI. THEREFORE, BELIEVE THAT DSA OFFICE SHOULD COME UNDER COORDINATING AUTHORITY VESTED IN COMUSMACHTAI.

4. THE ABOVE REFERS TO ACTUAL INTER- ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS IN PRACTICE. A SECOND CONCERN IS NECESSITY TO AVOID GIVING RTG IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE SETTING UP A NEW ORGANIZATION OUTSIDE THE ALREADY- EXISTING US MILITARY STRUCTURE IN THAILAND. IF WE CAN SAY THAT THE DSA OFFICE IS ATTACHED TO COMUSMACHTAI AND MERELY CONSOLIDATES ACTIVITIES THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY CONDUCTED BY THE SERVICES, THIS WOULD MEET THIS NEED. CONNECTION WITH MACTHAI IS ALSO NECESSARY TO QUALIFY BANGKOK AREA DSA PERSONNEL FOR PRIVILEGES SUCH AS DUTY- FREE ENTRY OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONALLY- OWNED VEHICLES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: CONFIRMATION THAT DSA ORGANIZATION WILL OPERATE UNDER COORDINATING AUTHORITY OF COMUSMACHTIA IN PRACTICE AND BE FORMALLY ATTACHED TO MACTHAI FOR PRIVILEGES SUCH AS DUTY- FREE ENTRY.
MASTERS

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